

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached two sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 5, 8(a) and 8(b). These two sheets, which respectively include Figs. 5 and 6 and Figs. 8(a) and 8(b), replace the original sheets including Figs. 5, 6, 8(a) and 8(b).

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-22, 24-31 and 33-36 are pending. The present response amends Claims 18 and 28, and cancels Claims 23 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action objected to the drawings; rejected Claims 18-22, 24-31 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Shigemori (U.S. Patent No. 6,558,053); rejected Claims 18-21, 24-30 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Hirose (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0079764); rejected Claims 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Takamori (U.S. Patent No. 6,443,641); and rejected Claims 18-22, 24-31 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shigemori in view of Ushida (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 10-303114) or Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,610,683). In addition the Office Action objected to Claims 23 and 32, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. In response to the indication of allowable subject matter, amended Claims 18 and 28 respectively incorporate the subject matter recited in Claims 23 and 32. Accordingly, Claims 18, 28 and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be in condition for allowance, as acknowledged on pages 8 and 9 of the Office Action.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith are two replacement drawing sheets that amend the reference numerals in order to address the points raised at page 2 of the Office Action regarding the liquid pouring nozzle. The specification is also amended

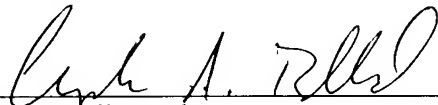
to be consistent with the amendments to the drawings. In view of these amendments, all of the reference numerals used in the drawings are believed to be consistent with the descriptions of the reference numerals used in the specification. It is respectfully requested the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 18-22, 24-31 and 33-36 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 07/09)

Christopher A. Bullard
Registration No. 57,644